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Law cracks down on improper burials

Lansing – Funeral homes and businesses responsible for burial or cremation procedures could face felony charges for improperly disposing of a human body, Sen. Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac) announced today after his bill was signed into law by the governor.

“I’m pleased to see this law take affect to protect families of loved ones who have passed away,” Gilbert said. “Mistreating a human body is a horrible crime and anyone who commits this heinous act should be held responsible. Families have enough grief already without having to worry about how their loved one is being treated.”

Under the new public act, improper disposal could result in up to 10 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

Gilbert, a funeral director by trade and primary sponsor of the legislation, said it was in response to the horrific tragedy in Noble, Ga. There, a crematorium was found to have dumped the bodies of more than 300 deceased persons on its property. During the investigation, it was discovered that ashes provided to grieving relatives were actually wood chips and powdered cement. Similar incidents have occurred in other states as well.

“Although I hope to never see this law used in Michigan, it is important to have it in place so our courts can properly punish those who would commit such a terrible offense,” Gilbert said.

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